

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

The substitute specification has been revised to make editorial changes thereto and generally improve the form thereof. No new matter has been added by this revision.

By the current Amendment, claims 21-32 have been cancelled and claims 33-52 have been added.

Claims 33-52 correspond to the embodiment as depicted in Figures 14 and 15, wherein an indicator 306 is provided in spiral groove 302 for allowing to be observed an extent to which polishing member 301 is worn.

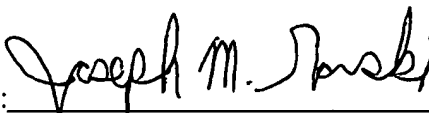
None of the references relied upon by the Examiner teach or suggest such an indicator, and accordingly, claims 33-52 are allowable over the references relied upon by the Examiner either taken alone or in combination.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Hiroo SUZUKI

By: 

Joseph M. Gorski
Registration No. 46,500
Attorney for Applicant

JMG/edg
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
July 14, 2004